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Chief Editor Abdul Sattar Azad
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 Resident Editor Waqas Masood
 Reporter Bazla Sardar
 Photographer S. Shahid Ikram
 Contributors Prof. Safdar Sandal
 Chief Correspondent Prof. Karamat Rajput.

Address B-65 Ablagh-e-Aamma
 (media) Cooperative
 Housing Society
 Block-8, Gulistan-e-Jauhar
 Karachi-75290

Phone 34615924
 Cell 0333-2194853
 Web. www.newflyerintl.com
 E-mail flyer_intl@hotmail.com

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Lahore Waqas Masood
 123 HH Phase 4
 DHA, Lahore
 Cell: 0333-3872222

Islamabad 8-Huma Plaza Block-25
 Blue Area
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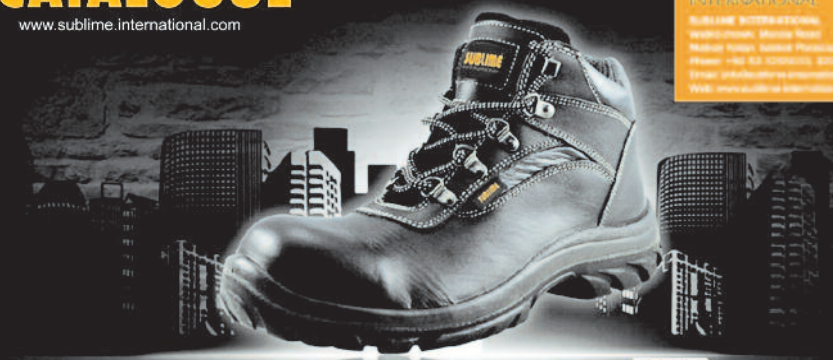
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ACE 2023 brings Airlines GSSAs and Forwarders together

The ACE 2023 networking and conference event, from the 4th to the 6th of December, will host thought leaders from across the air

bringing together the air cargo logistics and freight forwarding industry sectors,” said Christos Spyrou, Founder and Chief Executive Officer



cargo industry to discuss the challenges and opportunities in time critical logistics.

Panel discussions at the conference, sponsored by online market place Airblox, will address the evolving role of GSSAs, as well as digital booking, and e-commerce logistics ecosystems.

Speakers at the by-invitation-only event will include Elodie Berthonneau from Qatar Airways Cargo, Turhan Özen from Turkish Cargo, Turgut Erkeskin, from the International Federation of Freight Forwarder Associations (FIATA), and Dirk Goovaerts from Swissport.

“Abu Dhabi has proven to be a premier air cargo transportation hub, offering state-of-the-art infrastructure for time-critical cargoes,” said Celine Hourcade, ACE 2023 co-organiser and Founder and Managing Director of Change Horizon.

“We are looking forward to working with both Etihad Cargo and Abu Dhabi Airports to make ACE 2023 an inspirational event for our delegates.”

ACE 2023 will offer a range of networking opportunities as well as a conference program with keynote speeches, workshops, and panels.

An event app will enable delegates to pre-book face-to-face meetings with both new and existing business partners, fostering professional relationships between visitors.

“ACE is a unique networking event

we are looking forward to welcoming delegates from across the globe.”

ACE is organized by Air Cargo Plus and Change Horizon and is supported by The International Air Cargo Association (TIACA), FIATA, Pharma. Aero, Neutral Air Partner, and Women in Aviation and Logistics (WAL).

Exploring the five Freedoms of the Air

Representatives from fifty-two nations convened in Chicago to engage in discussions and authorize the legal framework that would shape the future of aviation. As a result of this meeting, the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) was established.

The ICAO members subsequently formulated a set of five freedoms that each participating country should grant to any airline planning to operate within, to, or through their airspace. The objective was to foster a unified and globalized aviation market in the years to come.

In this discussion, we will explore the Five Freedoms of the Air, established by the ICAO in 1944.

of ACE co-organizer, Air Cargo Plus.

“It is a fantastic opportunity to connect, negotiate, and trade in person and



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Aircraft uses jet fuel blended with palm oil

Indonesia on Friday, 27 Oct. flew its first commercial flight using palm oil-blended jet fuel, as the world's biggest producer of the commodity pushes for wider use of biofuels to cut fuel imports.

Operated by flag carrier Garuda Indonesia, the Boeing 737-800NG aircraft carried more than 100 passengers from the capital Jakarta to Surakarta city about 550 kilometres away, Garuda Indonesia CEO Irfan Setiাপutra said.

'We will discuss further with Pertamina, Energy Ministry and other parties to ensure this fuel is commercially reasonable,' Irfan said during a ceremony, adding the plane was set to return to Jakarta later on Friday, 27 Oct.

Garuda conducted several tests including

a flight test on the new fuel earlier this month and an engine ground test in August.

The palm-oil blended jet fuel is produced



by Indonesian state energy firm PT Pertamina at its Cilacap refinery, using hydro-processed esters and fatty acid (HEFA) technology and

is made of refined bleached deodorised palm kernel oil.

Pertamina has said the palm-based fuel emits less atmosphere warming greenhouse gases compared with fossil fuels, and palm oil producing countries have called for the edible oil to be included in feedstock for the production of sustainable aviation fuel.

Harris Yahya, a director at energy ministry, said the use of biofuel would lower the greenhouse effect.

Adviser appointed for PIA privatization

The formal process for the divestment of Pakistan International Airlines Corporation (PIACL) kicked off on Friday, 10 Nov after the Board of Privatization Commission appointed a financial adviser for the transaction.

The consortium led by Earnest & Young emerged as the winner among eight interested parties that submitted their technical and financial proposals for the hiring of financial advisers for PIACL privatization.

Based on the laid down criteria, the evaluation committee formed by the PC Board declared Earnest & Young as top top-ranked interested party.

The board formed a negotiating committee and tasked it to conclude the fi-

nancial services agreement with the successful bidder.

Available information showed PIA began to be unprofitable in 2011, requiring government subsidies. By the end of 2016, the national flag carrier was saddled with \$3 billion in debt. At the end of 2018, the airline was burdened with \$3.3bn in debt, up from \$2.97bn the year before, and this required government bailouts for continued operation.

An audit in September 2019 revealed that PIA had operated 46 empty flights between 2016 and 2017, without any passengers causing a loss of \$1.1m to the airline. Additionally, 36 Haj flights were flown without any passengers.



Boeing beats Airbus in order tallies at Dubai Airshow

Boeing dominated the Dubai Airshow, racking up 313 orders—232 firm and 81 non-firm. Meanwhile, Airbus garnered only 86 orders, as of Friday, 17 Nov the last day of the biennial airshow.

It was the first time that American aerospace giant has beaten its European competitor at Dubai since 2017. Heavy



demand for twin-aisle aircraft helped Boeing land more orders.

A much anticipated mega order by Turkish Airlines for Airbus jetliners didn't materialize. However, both entities said they plan to announce a significant order in the future.

Summary

- Widebody orders lead narrow-body orders
- Resurgent international travel demand drive order split
- Performance problems soften demand for Airbus A350

Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) starts Baku-Islamabad flights

We are delighted to welcome Azerbaijan Airlines' inaugural flight to Islamabad as it arrived at IIAP Islamabad 02 Nov, morning. The flight was welcomed with a traditional water cannon salute as it taxied through the arch created by the firefighters spraying water across the plane.

A warm welcome reception was held in the lounge attended by the Additional Director General PCAA Air Vice Marshal Taimur Iqbal, the Azerbaijan Embassy's deputy head of mission, Airport Manager and other key airport officials. AZAL is slated to operate two Baku-Islamabad weekly flights on Sundays and Wednesdays. Azerbaijan Airlines is also scheduled to operate two weekly flights to Lahore and Karachi.

The airline operated its inaugural commercial flight to Pakistan that landed at Lahore's Allama Iqbal International Airport (AIIAP) on 23 September. We wish Azerbaijan Airlines great success in their operations to Pakistan and look forward to further strengthening the aviation ties between Azerbaijan and Pakistan.

British Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner returned to London Heathrow due to a cracked windscreen

British Airways flight was forced to return to London due to a cracked windscreen.

Flight #BA157 from London

Boeing 787-9 was flying over Germany, pilots noticed something wrong with a windscreen according to our sources.

The crew advised the ATC and de-



Heathrow departed on November 15th, 2023 from Heathrow at 22:35 GMT to Kuwait City.

But 1 hour into the flight, when the

decided to return to London Heathrow.

The aircraft (reg. G-ZBKH) landed back on runway 27R 1 hour and 54 minutes after takeoff.



Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) starts flight from Baku to Islamabad, photo shows cake cutting ceremony held at Islamabad International Airport.

Emirates invests heavily in A380 fleet to ensure decades of premium travel experience

Emirates, the world's largest international airline and biggest A380 operator, is doubling down its investments to maintain and improve operational efficiency, as well as maximise fleet performance and reliability of its double-decker fleet well into the next decade.

pair, and overhaul (MRO) services, parts provisioning, component repairs, and as well as technical support.

The work, already underway, is in line with the airline's commitment to quality, and ensures customers can enjoy its signature onboard products and services for years to come. In

the fleet in optimal shape and pristine condition. The A380 will remain core to our network and customer proposition for the next decade, and we want to ensure our fleet is in tip-top shape."

Emirates and Collins Aerospace have signed a long-term agreement to support the airline's A380 Main



The airline has signed agreements worth over USD \$1.5 billion at the sidelines of the Dubai Airshow, with an expanded network of providers and partners to deliver superior aviation aftermarket and Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) services.

Emirates will leverage, at scale, the expertise and capabilities of partners including Honeywell, Collins Aerospace, Pratt & Whitney, Safran, Lufthansa Technik, OEM Services, Gameco, Haeco, and others to optimise its A380 fleet's lifespan and unlock additional operational efficiency gains, all at its exacting standards. Emirates' partners will provide a range of maintenance, re-

parallel with the work being carried out to maintain its A380 fleet, the airline continues to progress with the largest known retrofit programme in the industry, worth USD \$2 billion, which is poised to elevate the on-board experience even further.

Sir Tim Clark, President Emirates Airline said: "The A380 has been and will continue to be very much part of the Emirates story. Its size and capacity has allowed Emirates to unlock growth at some of the world's busiest airports, opened new opportunities for travellers, and substantially raised standards for passenger comfort. Our continued commitment to and confidence in the A380 are why we're investing heavily to keep

Landing gear overhaul program. Collins has been a pivotal partner for Emirates and will provide local support in the UAE for a substantial part of the overhaul scope of the landing gear programme for A380 aircraft.

Safran Landing Systems will provide Emirates exclusive services for its A380 Nose Landing gear. Safran's broad network scope which includes MRO facilities in Singapore and France will provide Emirates with the expertise, capabilities and tailored support services covering the A380's landing systems lifecycle.

Honeywell will provide wheels and carbon brakes for 116 A380 aircraft. Honeywell's advanced wheel

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and braking designs save weight, reduce maintenance costs and help extend overall brake life. Maintenance of the wheels and brakes will be performed at Emirates maintenance shops, ensuring continued maintenance support in Dubai.

In a relationship that spans 15 years, Emirates has extended its agreement with OEM Services for ongoing component support for the airline's A380 which includes the supply of spare parts, repair services and engineering support.

Pratt and Whitney and Emirates have signed a maintenance and support agreement for the airline's PW980 Auxiliary Power Units, the most powerful APUs in commercial service. The agreement ensures that Emirates receives timely and effective maintenance planning and support.

Emirates has been building a select network of MRO partners to support nose-to-tail line base maintenance services, and the airline has been closely working with these providers to consistently align with its commercial and technical performance requirements.

Lufthansa Technik will provide Base Maintenance Services (BMS) for the airline's A380s and will provide additional C Checks for the aircraft across the next three years. The C Checks will be performed by Lufthansa Technik Philippines (LTP) in Manila. Lufthansa Technik's competence centre for Base Maintenance Services in Manila has already carried out several heavy checks for Emirates' A380s since January this year. Emirates has also signed a main landing gear agreement with Lufthansa Technik for its future overhaul requirements.

The airline has also signed agreements with Gameco, based in Guangzhou, China, and Haeco in Xiamen, China for A380 C Checks starting in January and February 2024 respectively.

Emirates currently operates close to 90 A380s, with more slated to enter active service in the coming months. Last year, the airline kick-started its retrofit programme, with 67 A380s earmarked for a refresh across every cabin class, in addition to the installation of new Premium Economy Class cabins. So far, 16 aircraft have been upgraded and are now in full commercial service. The project, unprecedented in scale and size in the industry, is being managed entirely by the Emirates Engineering team.

Ethiopian buys more Boeing 737 Max

Ethiopian Airlines on Tuesday Nov 15, placed an order for Boeing 737-8 MAX narrow-body jets, nearly five years after the fatal 2019 MAX aircraft crash that led to the grounding of the global fleet.

In March 2019, an Ethiopian Airlines 737 MAX plane crashed shortly after take-off from Ethiopia's capital

long Dubai Airshow, where order announcements have been dominated by U.S. planemaker Boeing.

Tasew said Ethiopian Airlines expects to exercise options to purchase another 21 of the narrow-body planes. It also has purchasing options for a further 15 787-9 Dreamliner jets.

The airline will announce an order



Addis Ababa, killing all 157 passengers and crew on board. The accident followed a Lion Air 737 MAX crash in Indonesia's Java Sea five months earlier which killed all 189 people on board.

The accidents exposed a problem with a system on the plane, and the model was grounded worldwide, costing the U.S. planemaker some \$20 billion and prompting court cases that exposed shortcomings with the certification process.

"We believe we have checked and confirmed that the design defect of that aircraft has been fully corrected by Boeing," Ethiopian Airlines CEO Mesfin Tasew told reporters, announcing an order for 20 737 jets and 11 787-9 Dreamliners.

"We have renewed our confidence in that aircraft."

Ethiopian Airlines announced the order on the second day of the week-

long Dubai Airshow, where order announcements have been dominated by U.S. planemaker Boeing.

Tasew added that Ethiopian Airlines had been interested in buying the Airbus A220 jet to replace turboprop aircraft but that it would not consider the jet until engine issues were "corrected".

"Until we see the engine problem solved, we are not encouraged to place an order," he said.

Airbus and Pratt & Whitney, which makes the engine on the A220, did not immediately respond to an emailed request for comment.

A220 operators have had to grapple with some durability issues, compounded by a shortage of spare engines and maintenance bottlenecks that have collectively reduced the supply of working engines and leaving some planes grounded.

Amadeus Travel Trends 2024: How will we travel next year?

Amadeus unveils annual trends exploring what travellers expect in the year ahead.

Influencers become agents, business class fares unbundle, artificial intelligence matures, and musical tourism drives demand, while eVTOLs* prepare for take-off

Travelers never stand still for long. This is an industry of dynamic change, one always evolving and adapting to the latest innovation, fashion, or cultural shift. While it is impossible to know exactly what tomorrow will bring, Amadeus' position at the heart of the travel ecosystem gives unparalleled insight into the future.

Using the latest proprietary data, industry-leading insight, and expert analysis from across the organization, Amadeus here explores what might be in store next year in its annual Travel Trends research. Identified are five developments that aim to create more meaningful travel experiences for the planet, economy, and the traveler.

Daniel Batchelor, Vice President, Global Corporate Marketing & Communications at Amadeus, says: "After a period of recalibration and reassessment over the past few years, we are beginning to see a host of new ideas bear fruit across our industry.

"Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) will continue to exert a growing influence across the sector during 2024, while electric taxis are finally poised for take-off. Doing[1] what we love, be it travelling to see our favourite music acts or using new tools to follow in the footsteps of digital in-

fluencers, will also drive bookings next year, while airlines continue to reshape their offering to respond to changing tastes.

"There is much to look forward to, and Amadeus will be working alongside our partners from across the travel ecosystem to drive change for the traveller, wherever we can."

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Music tourism

After the social isolation of the pandemic, when bands and musical artists were grounded for months, a boom in concerts and festivals has this year tapped into a desire for connection. The trend is expected to accelerate as we look toward 2024.

Taylor Swift recently announced Asia Pacific tour dates for next year, drawing fans from around the world. Amadeus research suggests Taylor Swift concert dates in Australia, Singapore, and Japan for 2024 had a significant impact on travel searches and booking volumes to the countries.

During the week of the concert announcement, flight searches to Melbourne and Sydney saw a significant week-over-week growth of 44%, while bookings for these cities surged impressively by 446%. The concert announcement also had a strik-

ing impact on searches from New Zealand to both cities, resulting in a 240% week-over-week increase during the same period.

Flight searches to Singapore likewise showed an 18% week-over-week growth shortly after both Taylor Swift and Coldplay concert announcements were made.

There was a notable 32% week-over-week surge in international searches from neighboring countries to Tokyo. Inbound travellers from Asia Pacific countries such as Australia, Indonesia, South Korea, Malaysia, and Thailand demonstrated a strong preference for both short and long trips in a desire to enjoy the concert experience while also making room for leisurely exploration during their visit.

Agents of influence

Social media has become a powerful force during the inspiration phase of a trip, but a new shift is happening. Instead of influencers solely being the source of vacation inspiration for their communities, they are now facilitators of direct bookings through their varying channels. Influencers, such as Ana Hernández Sárria, travel photographer Rafael Fernandez Caballero, travel blogger the Blonde Abroad, yoga and movement coach Sjana Elise, and full-time traveler and content creator, Alyssa Ramos, are designing and hosting their own group trips.

The rise of so-called "Agents of Influence" is being facilitated by e-commerce marketplaces such as Thatch, Luxury Travel Hackers and TrovaTrip, which Inc ranked number 236 out of 5,000 of the fast-growing companies in the US in 2023. This technology allows influencers using Instagram, YouTube and TikTok, for example, to share a booking link directly on their profile page and process payments.

Electric skyways

As cities are more congested and air pollution is more prevalent, a potential solution to fossil-fuel-powered transportation will be the emergence of skyways that allow flying taxis, electric vertical take-off, and landing (eVTOL) aircraft and other kinds of electric aircraft to provide lower emission air travel options, both within urban areas, to satellite airports, cross-country and between islands.

It may seem very futuristic but German aircraft manufacturer Volocopter is plan-



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ning to provide a fleet of electric VoloCityVTOL for the Paris Olympics in 2024, making it one of the first electric air taxi networks. At the same time, Volocopter is expanding its reach to Asia, with plans to launch electric air taxis in Singapore by 2024, beginning with services in Marina Bay and Sentosa.

The potential expansion of these services includes cross-border air taxi trips to destinations in Malaysia and Indonesia, potentially connecting terminals in areas like Seletar and Changi to cities such as Melaka, Batam, and Bintan.

Toff Mobility, the first electric air company in Asia, is working toward debuting electric aircraft in 2024 in South Korea, while Surcar Airlines has selected Zeroavia to provide hydrogen-electric engines for its seaplanes in the Canary Islands.

Intelligent concierge

Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) is adding tremendous value to the online travel planning experience for consumers, as search and advice become hyper-personalized and more intuitive. Instead of selecting filters to fine-tune a search on a metasearch site or online travel agency (OTA), travellers can simply provide a brief to a chatbot in the same way you would a human advisor.

For example, a new ChatGPT plug-in from Expedia acts like a virtual travel assistant, listening to customer needs and delivering instant hotel and itinerary recommendations, with links to book.

The next generation of GAI-powered customer service will be delivered with greater patience and empathy, reducing the workload of employees to deal with the bulk of after-sales servicing and customer review management, giving them the bandwidth to provide the human touch on more specialist issues.

Business luxe-lite

With ever-more travellers wanting to fly at the front of the plane, there is an opportunity to offer more affordable and accessible "unbundled" business class fares.

In 2019, Emirates was one of the first airlines to launch "special" business class tickets, with no lounge access, restricted seat selection and no upgrade abilities. Qatar Airways followed, unveiling a Business Class Lite fare, with passengers asked to pay extra for lounge access and date or route changes, while they also earn fewer Avios/Qmiles.

With the trend gathering momentum, Zipair of Japan and Finnair began offering basic business tickets in 2021, while Air France and KLM added Business Class Light fares in 2023.

At the other end of the scale, airlines in Asia Pacific are enhancing the exclusivity of their business class offerings. This evolving trend caters to the preferences of

travelers who seek a premium level of comfort and luxury during their air travel. Notable examples include Japan Airlines' A350 business class, Air India's business class, and Cathay Pacific 'Aria' business class. The upgrade from various airlines features a 1-2-1 seating layout, sliding privacy doors, wireless charging apparatus, large 4K screens, and advanced Bluetooth audio streaming options.

Evidence of this trend continuing through 2024 includes news from Air New Zealand, which will be adding either four or eight rows along with sliding privacy doors, a storage cabinet, vanity mirror, and a spacious side shelf as a debut Business Premier Luxe product. Also, passengers can look forward to the integration of advanced entertainment features as part of this premium experience.

ICAO team in Pakistan to review 'action plan'

A delegation consisting of seven members from the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) Asia - Pacific Combined Action Team (CAT) arrived in Pakistan from Bangkok on Monday, Nov 06, for a five-day visit.

Dr Manjit Singh heads the ICAO team, and upon their arrival at Jinnah International Airport, they were received by senior officials from the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority.

to Lahore, foolproof security measures will be put in place. Upon his arrival in Lahore, Dr Singh will receive a welcome from the airport manager.

'The CAT's visit in 2021 was a part of ICAO's team visit, during which they devised an action plan aimed at addressing the issues that had been identified concerning the CAA,' an aviation official told media.

'The aim of ICAO's Asia Pacific



The other team members included, Sayata Senobua, Ms Matima Ariyachaphanich, Dr Manjit Singh, Hiroyuki Takata, Dr Punya Raj Shakya and Witsarut Chinwipat.

Special security arrangements have been put in place for the ICAO team during its visit to Pakistan.

The team consisted of experts of Air Navigation Service (ANS), Air Routes and Ground Aids (AGA) section experts, legal and other experts.

Following the completion of their CAT mission tasks at HQCAA, Dr Singh will also visit Lahore from November 10 to 14. During this time, he will explore Sikh holy sites in and around the Punjab province. To ensure his safety and comfort during his visit

Combined team is to observe whether the PCAA was following the action plan, if doing well then how it can be improved further, he said, adding that this is not an 'assessment' visit.

A spokesman for the PCAA said that the ICAO CAT Mission is visiting the Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority from Nov 6-10. The objective of this mission is to assist ICAO member States under the No Country Left Behind initiative and assist them for future ICAO validation missions.

'It is informed that the team is not here for any kind of audit. The only objective is to discuss corrective plans already submitted by CAA and assist if further improvement is required,' the spokesman said.

PIA CEO speeds up divestment process

To expedite the divestment process of Pakistan International Airlines (PIA), the CEO has cancelled the scheduled off days on Saturday and Sunday and instructed senior officials to report



to their offices, along with the relevant departmental general managers and their teams, to complete tasks.

The CEO's directives were communicated via email to all GMs. The email said the CEO chaired a meeting on Sunday Nov 19 afternoon to review the pace of work assigned for the divestment. The IT officials were directed to remain present in the boardroom to connect and facilitate online meetings.

As the national flag carrier is experiencing billions of rupees in losses, the government has announced privatisation plans for the debt-ridden PIA along with outsourcing airport operations.

The announcement has sparked panic and concern among the airline employees about their jobs and pensions, leading them to plan resistance and protests against the move.

Meanwhile, Senator RazaRabbani of PPP has stated that PIA can be viable if provided with professional management.

The present management is unable to comprehend the dynamics of a modern aviation industry, he added.

PIA's Senior Staff Association General Secretary, SafdarAnjum, told Dawn that PIA was progressing in the 1990s when there was no interference from political governments that inducted non-professional individuals and did not add more aircraft to the fleet, leading to the onset of problems. He blamed the present PIA administration for failing to manage the existing financial crisis.

Kerry Logistics scoops Frost & Sullivan Asia-Pacific Logistics Company of the Year

Kerry Logistics Network has been named the Asia-Pacific Logistics Company of the Year for the seventh time in a row at the 2023 Frost & Sullivan Asia-Pacific Best Practices Awards. The awards ceremony was held in Malaysia on 8 November 2023.

Organised annually by global business consulting firm Frost & Sullivan, the Awards were established to specifically focus on the Asia Pacific region, aiming to celebrate outstanding companies across various sectors. Winners are determined through industry trends analysis and research interviews, based on parameters including revenue growth, market share, leadership, range of products, new customer wins and business/market strategy.

Vic Cheung, Group Managing Director of Kerry Logistics Network, said, "We are again grateful to Frost



& Sullivan for the recognition. Winning the title for the seventh consecutive year is a testament to our dedication and consistency, as well as our flexibility and innovation in delivering the most fitting logistics solutions to our customers. In the future, we will stay humble and keep on learning, hoping to further contribute to the global supply chain and facilitate our customers in adapting to the shifts in the logistics landscape."

Woman ordered to pay \$39,000 to American Airlines for unruly behavior on flight

How much can unruly behavior cost you? For one woman, the answer runs into several thousands- \$38,952, to be exact.

That's the amount that a US District judge has ordered a Hawaii-based woman to pay American Airlines in restitution for the



delay and flight disruption that she caused during a 2022 flight.

Cayla Farris, 29, was on board an American Airlines flight from Phoenix Sky Harbor International Airport (PHX) to Daniel K. Inouye International Airport in Honolulu (HNL) on February 13, 2022.

Authorities said that, during the flight, Farris started using profanity and threatened the flight crew and fellow passengers.

As a result of Farris' unruly behavior, the flight's cabin crew were unable to carry on with their duties, and the flight's pilot decided to turn the aircraft back to PHX airport.

In September 2023, Farris pleaded guilty to a charge of interference with a flight crew member.

Aside from the amount she must pay to American Airlines, Farris was also sentenced to over three months of time served in connection with her actions, plus three years of supervised probation.

During the probation period, Farris will not be able to board an aircraft without obtaining approval from authorities.

Virgin Australia selects Sabre as its preferred NDC IT technology provider

Virgin Australia has selected Sabre Corporation (NASDAQ: SABR), a leading software and technology provider that powers the global travel industry, to power its future New Distribution Capability (NDC) connection. Virgin Australia will be using Sabre's NDC IT capabilities, together with its Global Distribution System (GDS), to both create



and distribute innovative offers and rich, customised NDC content.

Virgin Australia will be deploying Sabre technology to power its future retailing efforts across both direct and indirect channels. Using Sabre's NDC IT capabilities, the carrier will be able to make real-time NDC offers accessible to travel buyers so they will be able to shop, book, and service Virgin Australia's NDC air and ancillary offers with speed and scalability. Virgin Australia has a multi-pronged strategy backed by an extensive suite of Sabre technology to help in its efforts to improve operational efficiencies, increase revenue opportunities, create tailored offers for travellers, and distribute those offers across the global travel marketplace.

"It was vital to us that we chose the right, future-focused technology partner to enable us to create tailored, customised offers in real time, and position those offers in the right distribution channels at the right time, to the right travellers," said Dave Emerson, Chief Commercial Officer, Virgin Australia. "Investing in our distribution and retailing capability is crucial to enable a modern airline retailing strategy that's fit for purpose for today, tomorrow and for the longer term. We're pleased to be partnering with Sabre as our NDC IT technology provider, so we can take a clear step forward in our retailing and distribution evo-

lution."

This is the latest step in Virgin Australia and Sabre's long-standing, strategic relationship. The carrier recently announced it had chosen two new solutions from Sabre's Retail Intelligence suite, together with renewing its multi-year Sabre distribution agreement that includes the future addition of NDC content. Now, Virgin Australia is turning its attention to its future retailing and distribution strategy by selecting Sabre's NDC IT capabilities.

"We're thrilled to continue to enhance

our relationship with Virgin Australia," said Kathy Morgan, Vice President, Product Management, Distribution Experiences, Sabre Travel Solutions. "NDC is a key priority for Sabre and the global travel industry because it lays the groundwork for future airline retailing based on Offers and Orders. What is important for Virgin Australia is Sabre will be supporting both the IT and distribution sides of the NDC equation for the airline, giving them a holistic set of solutions and a clear NDC roadmap for the future."

Kerry Logistics wins Farfetch Asia/Europe supply chain contract

Kerry Logistics Network is providing Farfetch with full supply chain end-to-end management for ocean and airfreight imports from Asia to Europe, following its appointment as freight partner for the global luxury fashion platform.

Kerry Logistics UK.

"We are delighted to be awarded the contract and are looking forward to providing local expertise, as well as supporting the business on a global scale."

Farfetch is a platform for the luxury fashion industry, enabling customers from



Specifically, Kerry Logistics' network is supporting Farfetch's Reebok – New Guards Group (NGG) partnership launched in May this year.

"Our strong Asian network and expertise in the fashion and lifestyle sector were integral in developing a new supply chain model for the Reebok partnership," said Emma Rowlands, Strategic Sales Director,

over 190 countries to purchase products from over 1,400 luxury boutiques and brands from around the world.

Kerry Logistics is expanding its fashion e-commerce fulfilment operations, having implemented KOOLBee sorting robots in Hong Kong, Tianjin, and Dongguan to boost speed, productivity, and accuracy in its logistics operations.



Message from Consul General of Malaysia, on inaugural flight of Batik Air to Karachi

It is truly a pleasure as the Consul General of Malaysia in Karachi, representing the Malaysian government and our esteemed nation on this joyous occasion to celebrate this significant milestone, the inaugural flight of Batik Air from Kuala Lumpur to Karachi and vice versa.

I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Batik Air on the commencement of this new route. This marks not only an expansion of Batik Air's operations but also signifies the strengthening of air connectivity between Malaysia and Pakistan. Such initiatives contribute to fostering economic, cultural, and people-to-people ties, which are the cornerstones of a robust and enduring relationship between our two nations.

I would also like to express our sincere gratitude to the government and people of Pakistan for their unwavering support in facilitating this flight. The collaboration between Malaysia and Pakistan in the aviation sector exemplifies the spirit of cooperation and mutual benefit that characterizes the friendship between our countries. It is through such partnerships that we enhance connectivity, promote tourism, and stimulate economic growth.

The inaugural flight of Batik Air not only connects our two cities but also symbolizes the potential for further collaboration and engagement. As we witness this historic moment, let us reflect on the shared values and aspirations that unite Malaysia and Pakistan. Our nations have a rich history of coopera-

tion, and today's event is a testament to the continuous efforts to deepen our nations' ties.

I would encourage everyone to embrace this opportunity to explore the beauty, culture, and hospitality that each country has to offer. The skies have become a bridge that brings us closer, and I am confident that the Kuala Lumpur-Karachi route will serve as a conduit for strengthened people-to-people connections.

In summary, I extend my best wishes to Batik Air for the success of this new venture. May this flight bring prosperity, understanding, and enduring friendships between our nations. Thank you, and may the skies between Kuala Lumpur and Karachi be forever open, fostering a future of shared prosperity and goodwill.

AUCTION PROCLAMATION

BOEING 767-336 AIRCRAFT

Note: This auction proceeding is being conducted in the light of order dated 28-10-2023 by Mr. Ejaz Ahmad Imitiaz learned Civil Judge, Sambrial in case titled "Sialkot International Airport vs Jet Asia Airways company limited etc"

Open Public Auction will be held for the sale of Boeing 767-336 ER (Registration No: HS-JAS), Qty 01, parked at Sialkot International Airport (Pakistan), on "as is where is basis."

Aircraft Data:

Year of Manufacture:1991 - Serial No 25203

AIRFRAME: Total Hours/Cycles: 54500/32651

ENGINES:RR-4052-1C (LH-Hours/Cycles:89210/1260. RH: Hours/Cycles:46196/18922)

Other information relating to aircraft can be obtained from the office of Chief Executive Officer , Sialkot International Airport Limited.

Auction schedule is as under:

- a. For inspection of aircraft each bidder must submit a written application to the Chief Executive Officer Sialkot International Airport Limited (SIAL) along with two copies of CNIC, in accordance with SIAL SOPs. Last date of submission of application is 28-11-2023.
- b. Inspection of aircraft may be carried out on any working day from 11 :00 hours till 15:30 hours from 29-11-2023 till 04-12-2023 (no camera and mobile phones are allowed on inspection and auction day).
- c. Auction will be held on 06-12-2023 at 12:00 pm hours at Sialkot International Airport, Sialkot Pakistan.

Terms and Conditions for Auction:

- a. On the day of Auction, interested party/individual must bring a pay order in favour of SIAL amounting Rs. 500,000 as Earnest Money which is refundable to the unsuccessful bidders and amount of successful bidder would be transferred to the account given by concerned court for further proceedings.
- b. Only those parties / individuals would be allowed to participate in the auction process who will submit Auction Entry Fee and Earnest Money in the form of pay order.
- c. The successful bidder(s) will be required to deposit amount equivalent to 25% of the total bid value within two working days in shape of pay order in favour of the account title given by concerned court of law and remaining 75% within ten working days after the auction , failing which Auctioneer reserves the right to forfeit earnest money and 25% deposited amount. If highest bid is cancelled due to nonpayment or any other valid reason, Auctioneer may proceed in favour of the next highest bidder.
- d. Only Pay Order in favor of Sialkot International Airport will be acceptable. Bank Guarantee, Call deposit, cheque and any other payment instrument will not be entertained.
- e. All Government of Pakistan applicable levies & taxes shall also be payable by successful bidder.
- f. Court Auctioneer will be at liberty to annul auction process at any time if auction bid does not meet the pre- determined reserved price i.e. 1.2 million US Dollars.
- g. Court Orders will prevail.

Court Auctioneer

Malik Abdullah Tariq Awan, Advocate High Courts, Nazim Ali Awan Law Firm (Regd)
Old Tehsil Courts, Sambrial Sialkot,
Pakistan.

Phone: 00-92-332-8155133

Email: abdullahtariqadv@gmail.com





Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS)

Provides excellent ground handling services

Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS) is a project of Shaheen Foundation, a welfare organization of Pakistan Air Force and has the largest setup of providing complete Ground Handling Services at major Airports in Pakistan i.e Karachi, Lahore, Islamabad, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Skardu, Gawader, Faisalabad and Rahim Yar Khan International Airports. Its success story goes way back to 1982 when it was established with the sole aim of providing Safe, Secure, Efficient, Cost Effective and Quality Services to Airlines operating in Pakistan.

Since then, SAPS has continuously improved its services to meet the requirements of its customers. SAPS adaptability and customer-care are pivotal to the portfolio of Ground Handling Services we offer. Whether partial or complete, SAPS has the ability to tailor a program to meet distinctive needs of Airlines and private competitors.

Besides over-flight and landing clearances, SAPS provides Ground Handling Services as per IATA Airport Handling Standards, with full security measures. Our services include Passenger / Baggage handling, Flight Operations / Dispatch, Load / ULD control, Ramp / Cabin Cleaning, Cargo / Mail handling, Scanning, etc. SAPS, also makes arrangement for refueling, Catering & Aircraft Maintenance, if required.

In addition to Scheduled Airlines, SAPS also handles Charter / VVIP/Presidential flights and Non-Schedule Carriers operating both Freighters & Passenger Aircraft at Karachi, Islamabad, Lahore, Peshawar, Multan, Quetta, Faisalabad, Skardu, Gawader & Rahimyar Khan and at remote Airfields i.e. Nawabshah, Chandana, MohenjoDaro, Kadanwari etc on need basis. SAPS has a rich experience of 40 years and customer satisfaction is our paramount policy.

SAPS experience in Aviation Ground Handling is attaining heights of excellence every day. For the last over 41 years SAPS is handling reputable clients to their satisfaction. SAPS is a member of IGHP (IATA's Ground Handling Partner) and stays abreast with new developments in the World Aircraft-Handling Industry.

We have completely implemented the Safety Management System (SMS) in entire SAPS including Syllabus and teaching is as per Airport Handling Manual (AHM), SAPS is certified on ISO 9001:2015, ISO 14001:2015, ISO 45001:2018 accredited from British Assessment Bureau (BAB) and Pakistan National Accreditation Council (PNAC), certified since 2014. SAPS also have RA3 certification of five (05) stations from Central Excellence Independent Validator (CEIV) of European Union and United Kingdom. Moreover, SAPS is also ISAGO certified.

Since the time SAPS has established the Commercial Department which is Headed by Captain Saeed Khan. The number of clients has increased. Recently, the new incoming Batik Air from Malaysia is also being handled by SAPS.



Batik Air launches flights from Kuala Lumpur to Karachi

Batik Airs' inaugural flight from Kuala Lumpur to Karachi landed at 7.30 pm on Monday, 18th of November 2023. The first flight was welcomed at Jinnah International Airport with a traditional water cannon salute. Batik Air previously known as Malindo Air of Malaysia has started three flights a week on every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday Using Boeing-737-800 aircraft. Batik Air has awarded a ground handling contract to Shaheen Airport Services (SAPS).

The first Flight of Batik Air was received at the airport by the Consul General of Malaysia in Karachi HE Herman Hardynata Ahmed, Mr. Shakil Aftab Kashmirwala GSA of the Airline, its staff, Air Com. (R) Ahsan Arshid Ch. GM SAPS and Capt. Saeed Khan of SAPS.

Batik Air is excited to launch direct flights between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur commencing on 18 November 2023. This sought-after route underscores Batik Air's steadfast dedication to expanding its worldwide accessibility, ensuring effortless connections for travelers across the globe.

Following the resounding success of its daily flights to Lahore, Batik Air is proud to mount new services between Karachi and Kuala Lumpur, commencing with three times weekly flights. The new route strengthens the airline's ties between the countries, fostering both business and leisure travel opportunities.



The picture shows HE Herman Hedynata, Consul General of Malaysia, Karachi flanked by Mr. Shakil Aftab Kashmirwala, Air Com. (R) Ahsan Arshad GM, SAPS (on his right), a guest, Capt. Saeed Khan of SAPS and other guests (on left) cutting cake on the occasion.



Photo shows (from 2nd-L) Ms. Nor Azua binti Sulaili, Vice Consul, Consulate General of Malaysia in Karachi, Mr. Shakil A Kashmirwala, Capt. Saeed Khan, The Consul General of Malaysia, Air Com. (R) Ahsan Arshad Ch. and other officials.



Batik Air crew with Capt. Saeed Khan, Mr. Zohaib of SAPS and others.

Glimpses of Batik Air's inaugural flight from Kuala Lumpur to Karachi



The Consul General of Malaysia is being presented with a flower.



The officials were photographed inside Batik Air B-737-800 aircraft.



Group photo with the Consul General of Malaysia, Karachi.



Group photo with crew of Batik Air.



AirAsia expands services between Malaysia and China/India in response to Visa-Free entry

AirAsia recently announced a significant increase in services between China-Malaysia and India-Malaysia, totalling an impressive 230 weekly flights starting in the first quarter of 2024, with up to 5.2 million seats per year.

The significant increase in capacity via AirAsia Malaysia (airline code AK) and AirAsia X Malaysia (airline code D7) comes

connectivity in two of our largest markets, but also to act as a catalyst for significant economic growth. With an estimated 4.6 million guests expected to travel on our extensive network of 26 routes in China and India in 2024 alone, we are ready to play a pivotal role in achieving Malaysia's ambitious tourism targets of 25 million international tourists annually."



in response to the anticipated surge in travel demand following the Malaysian government's announcement of a 30-day visa-free entry for travellers from China and India into Malaysia starting 1 December 2023. The announcement also coincides with the recent announcement of the easing of travel restrictions for Malaysians to China, from 1 December 2023.

Capital A CEO Tony Fernandes said: "This is a huge, much-anticipated news not only for AirAsia but for the country, and we truly thank the Malaysian government, particularly Prime Minister Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim, for this forward-thinking initiative. AirAsia has been at the forefront of trying to make visiting Malaysia easier. The 30-day visa-free entry for the citizens of China and India will surely provide a welcome boost for Malaysia's tourism and its economy ahead of the upcoming peak travel season while boosting economic bonds between these great nations. As a vital player in the aviation sector, we stand ready to add capacity to support the demand for affordable and accessible air travel in the region."

AirAsia Aviation Group Limited Group CEO, Bo Lingam added: "We see this as an opportunity not only to enhance regional

As the largest foreign low-cost carrier in China, both AirAsia Malaysia (AK) and AirAsia X Malaysia (D7) fly 17 routes into the country with a total of 156 flights weekly. AirAsia Malaysia (AK) and AirAsia X Malaysia (D7) fly from Kuala Lumpur to Guangzhou, Quanzhou, Kunming, Guilin, Nanning, Shantou, Shenzhen, Chengdu, Beijing, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. AirAsia Malaysia (AK) also flies from Kota Kinabalu to Guangzhou, Hangzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing and Wuhan, as well as from Johor Bahru to Guangzhou.

Both airlines have also increased frequencies to nine routes into India with a total of 74 flights weekly. AirAsia Malaysia (AK) flies from Kuala Lumpur to Bengaluru, Kolkata, Cochin, Hyderabad, Chennai, Trichy, and Trivandrum – a new destination starting in February 2024. AirAsia X Malaysia (D7) flies from Kuala Lumpur to New Delhi and Amritsar.

Recently, the China Embassy in Malaysia also announced that Malaysian citizens holding ordinary passports who enter China for business, tourism, family visits and transit purposes can enjoy visa-free travel for up to 15 days starting 1 December 2023 until 30 November 2024.

Sri Lankan airports move reading online

Magzter announced it has signed deals with Bandaranaike International Airport and Jaffna International Airport in Sri Lanka to offer passengers a paperless digital reading experience at the airport.

Magzter's partnership with the Airport and Aviation Services Sri Lanka Limited enables passengers to access 8,000 magazines, newspapers, journals and comics for free while they are in the airport. Passengers can download the Magzter app from the Apple Store or Google



Play to get free unlimited reading access within these geo-fenced zones, eliminating the need for a subscription.

While Magzter's extensive catalogue features several regional Sri Lankan favourites like Business Today, Lanka Woman, Explore Sri Lanka, Sirikatha, Lankadeepa, Divaina, Daily Mirror and The Island, it also provides an exciting array of content for travellers from key tourist-inflow countries to Sri Lanka, including India, UK, USA, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. By encouraging millions of people to read digitally across the globe, Magzter has so far saved tens of thousands of trees and other natural resources, thereby playing an active role in fostering the "Go Green" initiative.

Air France-KLM Group and Etihad Airways announce a new partnership

Air France-KLM Group and Etihad Airways, the national airline of the United Arab Emirates, today announced a new partnership between their respective loyalty programs following the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between the two airline Groups in September 2023.

As part of this new partnership, members

to earn and redeem miles for – more than 60 new routes covering destinations worldwide.

The partnership will go live today, after Air France started operating from Paris Charles de Gaulle to Abu Dhabi International Airport last October.

Flying Blue Miles can be redeemed to enjoy a vast range of experiences, from flights, worldwide hotel stays, car rentals, or



of Flying Blue, Air France and KLM's loyalty program, and members of Etihad Guest, the loyalty program of Etihad Airways, will now be able to earn and redeem Miles in either loyalty program when flying on Air France, KLM or Etihad. Reciprocal benefits for elite members will be announced soon.

Following the MoU signed earlier this year, Air France-KLM and Etihad Airways customers can now connect to – and therefore

products from the Flying Blue Store. Etihad Guest Miles can be spent on flights, worldwide hotel stays and vacations, or products from the Etihad Guest Reward Shop.

Air France currently operates daily flights between Paris – Charles de Gaulle and Abu Dhabi International Airport, while Etihad currently operates daily flights to both Paris-Charles de Gaulle and Amsterdam Schiphol from Abu Dhabi International Airport.

GE sells remaining AerCap shares

GE has sold the last of its shares in AerCap. AerCap has completed the secondary public offering of 30,729,878 of its ordinary shares by GE Capital US Holdings, at a price to the public of \$65.25 per ordinary share.

AerCap exercised in full the option to purchase up to an additional 4,008,245 ordinary shares from GE. As part of the secondary offering, AerCap purchased 7,859,163 ordinary shares from the underwriters at a price per ordinary share equal to \$63.62. AerCap has not received any proceeds from the offering. Goldman Sachs, Citigroup, Deutsche Bank, BNP Paribas, BofA Securities, JPMorgan, Credit Agricole.



Garudamiles receives award from Golden Loyalty Awards 2023

The national flag carrier airline Garuda Indonesia with the GarudaMiles loyalty program has won awards at the Golden Loyalty Awards in two categories: Top 2 in the "Excellence in Management" category with the title GarudaMiles Carbon



Offset Redemption Program: The Pioneer for Garuda Indonesia Sustainable Journey and Top 3 in the "Best Marketing Campaign" category with the title New GarudaMiles Junior: Fostering Bonds That Last a Lifetime.

The announcement and awarding of the 2023 Golden Loyalty Awards took place on October 11, 2023, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Golden Loyalty Awards is a prestigious annual award event for the world's best airline and hotel loyalty programs in the travel industry and is held by Global Flight. Loyalty programs and initiatives from the world's airlines and hotels are selected through a rigorous judging process. The Golden Loyalty Awards was held in 2023 for the 19th time.

The award given to GarudaMiles is an international recognition of GarudaMiles' commitment to transforming to provide innovative new experiences and the best flight services with Garuda Indonesia dedicated to GarudaMiles loyal members.

We thank all loyal GarudaMiles members who continue to support Garuda Indonesia. We are very proud to receive this most prestigious award and will continue to provide the best experience for GarudaMiles members.

Readying PIA for take-off before sell-off

When the Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) was hit by a licence scandal three years ago, it seemed nothing could be worse. But then came the recent crisis, sparked by Pakistan State Oil's (PSO) refusal to supply fuel to the national airline due to payment issues. The weeks long ordeal led to the cancellation of hundreds of flights, pushing the PIA to the verge of collapse.

During the crisis, the already debt-ridden flag carrier was estimated to have suffered financial losses of about Rs300 million daily.

However, what perhaps hurt the airline more is the shattered confidence of many travellers, many of whom will think twice before booking a PIA ticket again. Apart from travellers, the airline's crew and other staff members also had to go through financial losses and mental stress. They never saw something like that in the past and now they are uncertain about their future. The PIA's recent descent came after the government said in August it would privatise the airline as part of a fiscal discipline plan agreed under an International Monetary Fund bailout.

This has made some stakeholders question whether the national airline is being prepared for 'a loot sale' through a deliberate campaign. The government's plans have also ignited concerns among PIA staff, who are worried about their job security and benefits. These fears have been compounded by the challenges faced in reacquiring two Airbus A320 aircraft from a Malaysian leasing company, negotiations for which have been fraught with contractual and condition disagreements.

However, PIA management remains hopeful that a resolution is imminent, with a \$26m payment poised to recover the aircraft. The addition of these planes, coupled with the repair of seven others currently out of service, could significantly bolster PIA's operational capacity and financial resilience. The airline currently operates 20 aircraft. Besides, PIA recently received Rs18 in loan from commercial banks and its management is trying to get an additional Rs24bn in funding to avoid the repeat of a fuel-related catastrophe in the near future. The PIA's financial position further improved after they received an outstanding Rs550m from the religious ministry and another heavy amount from the defence ministry.

An aviation expert said the PIA won't need bank loans or other forms of credit if its outstanding debts, running in billions of ru-

pees, are settled by the government.

Furthermore, the airline may not need more loans if the three hotels it owns in New York, Paris and Jeddah are sold at market prices.

The airline has accumulated billions of dollars in losses and liabilities, which the caretaker government says it can no longer fund. The ongoing crisis has spotlighted the urgent need for professional aviation management to navigate the complexities of the modern industry.

Safdar Anjum, General Secretary of PIA's Senior Staff Association, asserts that professional leadership, free from political interference, is essential to revitalise the once-pioneering airline and to restore passenger confidence shaken by recent events.

PPP Senator Raza Rabbani has also opposed PIA's privatisation in all its forms, saying: 'It seems questionable that PIA planes

were functioning normally when the fuel supply was abruptly halted and then resumed. There should be an investigation into the precise events.

He sought an inquiry into the PSO's refusal to supply fuel. 'Through a deliberate campaign ...

PIA is being prepared for a loot sale. Senator Dr Afanullah Khan of PML-N supported the national flag carrier's privatisation but stressed that it should continue to operate to attract a better bid. 'The PIA represents Pakistan all over the world, so it should remain operational.

As the airline grapples with an annual loss of Rs71 billion, largely attributable to the EU flight ban stemming from licensing concerns, experts agree that the path forward is lined with both caution and optimism, marking yet another chapter in the storied legacy of an airline that once soared as a regional leader.

Flying taxis ready for takeoff

Flying taxis have been a sci-fi fixture for decades, but one operator says they are finally close to reality, first in the United States and then the United Arab Emirates and India.

'What we used to think of as science fiction is now science fact,' Billy Nolen, Archer Aviation's chief safety officer, said at the Dubai Airshow on Wednesday, 15 Nov.

'This is happening, it is real, and you will see this in the market in 2025.

Reports of futuristic aircraft ferrying passengers over cities and their choked roads have been cropping up for years, evoking images of 1960s cartoon 'The Jetsons'.

Yet regulatory approval from the US Federal Aviation Administration for Archer's Midnight, a four-passenger, electric-powered vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) aircraft, is expected as soon as 2025.

That will trigger 'almost concurrent' certification in the UAE, said Nikhil Goel, chief commercial officer at Archer, whose major backers include Mubadala, an Emirati sovereign wealth fund.

UAE flights are expected to start in 2026 on two initial routes: from Dubai

airport to the upmarket Palm development, and Abu Dhabi airport to the city centre Corniche.

'We expect the demand to be more than we can even handle. The pricing



A Chinese 'Flying Car' makes its first flight in Dubai.

will be relatively premium at the outset, said Goel.

'But then over time, we'll deploy hundreds of aircraft in the UAE (which) will also lower the price considerably.' At the same time, flights will launch in New Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore, Goel said, calling India 'a really, really big market for us'.

Test flights for Archer's Midnight are currently taking place in California, and rival firm Joby has performed its first experimental journeys in New York.

ECC okays Rs8bn for two A320 aircraft

In a significant development, the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet on Friday 27 Oct. green-lighted a hefty sum of Rs8 billion for the purchase and repatriation of two Airbus A320 aircraft, which have been grounded in Jakarta since September 2021.

The ECC meeting chaired by Finance Minister Shamshad Akhtar approved bridge financing through the Civil Aviation Authority's resources for Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) to meet emergent requirements of the airline related to overdue payments.

According to the source, the government subsequently opted to buy the Airbus, a decision that the company concurred with. However, due to Pakistan's inability to arrange the necessary funds promptly, the company retracted its agreement to sell the planes to Pakistan.

Recently, a high-level official delegation comprising representatives from CAA and PIA visited Jakarta. The delegation renegotiated the deal with the company, settling on a price range of US\$21m to \$26m, according to the source.

Upon receipt of payment, the first air-



craft is slated for delivery to Pakistan within 10-15 days, according to the source. Back in 2015, Pakistan entered into a six-year lease agreement for two Airbus A320 aircraft. The monthly lease payment was close to \$550,000.

This comprehensive package covered not only the aircraft rent but also maintenance expenses and insurance costs. The lease agreement for the Airbus aircraft concluded in 2021, following which the planes were dispatched to Jakarta for re-delivery.

In a twist of events, Air Asia took over the leasing firm from which Pakistan had leased the aircraft. The new management stipulated that the leased planes be returned to their original state, necessitating the substitution of worn-out accessories with brand-new ones. The company insisted on having the aircraft delivered to FL Technics in Jakarta for comprehensive maintenance, repair and overhaul. A PIA source revealed that Pakistan had no alternative but to comply with this demand in September 2021.

Pakistan and Air Asia engaged in multiple rounds of discussions, with disagreements primarily centred on the procedure for parts replacement. However, a consensus was eventually reached to replace the accessories, effectively restoring the aircraft to near-new condition.

The source further added that the second plane is scheduled for delivery in the subsequent month.

PIA is currently paying a combined monthly rental of \$600,000 for the two Airbus A320 aircraft that have been stationed in Jakarta since September 2021. This constitutes an extra expenditure for PIA, as it continues to pay the company despite not utilising the planes. An official announcement said that the Aviation Division submitted a proposal for the provision of financial support to PIA through the CAA for certain emergent needs of the airline.

After detailed discussion and deliberation, ECC decided to approve the proposal of the division for bridge financing through CAA's resources for PIA to meet emergent requirements related to overdue payments. The ECC allowed the Aviation Division to proceed with the bilateral arrangement between the CAA and PIA.

The meeting was attended by Privatisation Minister Fawad Hassan Fawad, Planning and Development Minister Sami Saeed, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Aviation Air Marshal Farhat Hussain Khan and federal secretaries.

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PIFFA hosts Gala Night 2023 in Karachi

The third edition of the PIFFA Gala Night 2023 was held on October 21, 2023, with exuberance and grandeur at the Pearl Continental Hotel in Karachi. The event welcomed over 600 distinguished guests from Member Freight Forwarding Companies, Container Freight Stations, Shipping Lines, Airlines, Terminals, and Port Officials. Notable business entities such as the Paracha Group, Bilal Group, Qasim Freight Station, BOML, OTA, Seagold, and Waterlink Group were the prime sponsors of the event.

In his inaugural address, Mr. Bilal-ur-Rehman, Chairman of the Pakistan International Freight Forwarders Association, underscored PIFFA's crucial role in advocating for the interests of Pakistan's Logistic Service Providers with national organizations, ministries, and on international platforms.

The Founder Chairman of PIFFA and former President of FIATA, Mr. Babar Badat, shipping veteran Mr. Mohammad A. Rajpar, IATA Country Manager for Pakistan Mr. Feroze Jamall, and logistics experts Mr. Abdul Karim Paracha, Mr. Bilal Shahid, SVC Rana Tariq Mahmood, and Mr. Abdul Aurangzeb Punjwani also addressed the audience, offering insightful perspectives.

The event's Chief Guest, Vice Admiral Iftikhar Ahmed Rao (Retd), Special Adviser to the Prime Minister on Maritime Affairs shared his perspective on the role and support of the freight and logistics community in the country's economy. He commended PIFFA's commendable efforts in enhancing the professional capabilities of its members through comprehensive training programs at the PIFFA Training Institute, benefiting Freight Forwarding and Logistics Companies, allied stakeholders, and the general public.

Glimpses of PIFFA Gala Night 2023 in Karachi

Following this, tokens of appreciation were presented to the prime sponsors, industry veterans, cricket team sponsors, and members who dedicated their time and energy to successfully organize PIFFA Cricket Tournament earlier, and the Gala Night Program.

The gala night concluded with a celebratory dinner and an entertaining musical program, featuring renowned comedian and singers much to the delight of the audience, extending late into the night.



The event chief guest Vice Admiral (R) Iftikhar Ahmed Rao Advisor to PM on Maritime Affairs presents his book to Chairman PIFFA Mr. Bilal ur Rahman.



Mr. Jamil Ahmed, past Chairman of PIFFA is being presented a shield of appreciation by Mr. M A Rajpar on the occasion.



Mr. Asim Saeed Khan, past Chairman of PIFFA receives a shield of appreciation.



Mr. M Ilyas past Chairman of PIFFA is being presented a shield of appreciation.



Mr. Izhar ul Haq Qamar EX-Chairman PIFFA receives a shield of appreciation.



Group photo With Mr. A S Azad Editor Flyer International.



Mr. Izhar ul Haq Qamar presents a Souvenir to one of the sponsors.



News in Pictures



A team of PCS Logistics comprising Mr. A Wahab Sohail, Mr. Khalid Fazal Khan, and Mr. Saad Sohail meets HE Consul General of Oman in Karachi Eng. Sami Abdullah Salim Al Khanjari for the mutual benefits recently.



Emirates completes its ten years of flight operations in Nov. this year from/to Sialkot International Airport (SIAL). Picture shows the then Chairman SIAL, Mr. Ashfaq Ahmed Ch. was photographed with emirates delegates and guests (in 2013).



Daewoo Pakistan Express Bus Service received two awards for Fast/Ex (Courier & Logistics) and Bus Service from the 17th Consumers Choice Award 2023. The photo shows Mr. Qaisar Abbas Khan Dy. GM and Mr. Saqib Bhutti Regional Manager(Daewoo) holding the awards.



Daewoo Pakistan Express Bus Service launches Electric Rickshaw, picture shows Mr. Mohsin Naqvi, Caretaker Chief Minister of Punjab and British Dy. High commissioner, Lahore ride into it in a function in Lahore .



Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) starts flights from Baku to Islamabad, The photo shows a cake cutting ceremony held at Islamabad International Airport



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GSP+ rollover requires greater attention to sustainability

The GSP+ scheme has been extended for Pakistan for four additional years. However, the threat is not over. It is essential to note that the extended GSP+ is more stringent and failure to the effective implementation of all the mandatory conventions can lead to the withdrawal of the status. Continuation of the GSP+ extension is subject to whether

good governance-related international conventions. Pakistan's textile industry is the largest beneficiary of the GSP+. More than 80% of total exports to the EU from Pakistan are textiles. In 2021, Pakistan exported more than \$7.7 billion worth of textiles to the EU. The top textile export products include trousers, not knitted; bed linen, not knitted and not printed and jer-

Areas of improvement

PRIME's recent study estimates that if GSP+ is revoked, Pakistan will lose more than one-third of its exports to the EU (more than \$3 billion in terms of trade loss in 2021). This will pose existential threats to Pakistan's largest export industry – the textile sector. Other resulting threats such as loss of employment opportunities and



Pakistan will ratify additional conventions and advance its current efforts of compliance with the compulsions.

Background

The EU granted Pakistan the GSP+ in December 2013, which came into effect from January 2014 onwards. This preferential tariff-free status provided a competitive advantage to Pakistan in the global market as the largest GSP+ beneficiary. Not only Pakistan's total exports to the EU observed a remarkable gain (more than 60% - around \$10 billion in 2021 compared to \$6 billion in 2013), but GSP+ also enhanced Pakistan's capabilities to grow in a sustainable manner, diversify its economy and create employment opportunities. It accelerated the country's efforts in improving compliance with major human and labour rights and environment and

sees, knitted.

There are two special arrangements and one general arrangement under the EU's GSP scheme. General arrangement applies to lower or lower-middle-income countries that receive duty reductions for 66% of all EU tariff lines. EBA (Everything but Arms) is a special arrangement that applies to LDCs (Least Developed Countries) that receive full duty-free access to all products except arms and ammunition. GSP+ is the second special arrangement that applies to developing countries that ratify 27 core international conventions on human and labour rights and environment and good governance. These countries receive zero-duty access to the same 66% of all tariff lines covered under the GSP general arrangement.

decent livelihoods, gender discrimination, and non-compliance to human and labour rights will significantly hinder Pakistan's advancement to accomplish sustainable development.

The EU's previous reports on GSP+ monitoring as well as ILO's recent publication on Pakistan's compliance with labour standards indicate that significant progress in terms of human and labour rights is crucial for Pakistan to boost its economy sustainably. Fundamental human and labour rights such as freedom of association and collective bargaining, elimination of forced and bonded labour, abolition of child labour, and elimination of discrimination in occupation must be protected. The global community has serious concerns pertaining to non-compliance to occur


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cupational health and safety as well as a lack of tripartite consultations and social dialogue.

The ILO has added two more conventions (the Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 1981 (No. 155) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention, 2006 (No. 187)) to its list of conventions on fundamental workers' rights. Both conventions have not been ratified by Pakistan. However, the analysis of the current compliance progress indicates that Pakistan may be required to ratify these treaties in addition to other conventions to be added under GSP+.

Pakistan must strive to avoid revocation of GSP+ status by ensuring compliance with the EU requirements and utilizing the status further. There is a greater scope in diversifying export products within the textiles and exploiting untapped trade potential with countries other than the conventional export destinations such as Germany, Spain, and the Netherlands. Further, GSP+ removes tariffs on more than 66% of all tariff lines. However,

these tariff lines are not being fully exploited. These untapped tariff lines with no penetration and easy competition should be fully explored.

Moreover, Bangladesh's graduation from LDC to the developing country in 2029 thus losing its EBA status under the GSP scheme offers a generous opportunity for Pakistan to expand its textile exports. Upon graduation, Bangladesh will experience major trade losses to the EU due to the removal of the duty-free market access. PRIME's analysis of trade loss indicates that Bangladesh will suffer market loss in women's and men's trousers and jerseys which Pakistan also exports to the EU substantially. A massive potential lies for Pakistani exporters to divert these trade losses in their favour.

Additionally, digital traceability is another crucial obligation to ensure transparency in the supply chain. The textile industry must digitize its supply chain to disclose the data to verify that the manufacturing conditions are healthy and the impacts on the environment are minimal. Significantly low female labour force par-

ticipation (FLFP), mounting industrial emissions, and lack of textile waste management are other areas requiring enhanced and sustained efforts to meet compliance targets.

Conclusion

A robust consideration of recommendations from the EU, ILO, and WB on compliance with fundamental requirements on human and labour rights and environment and good governance is crucial for Pakistan to avoid GSP+ discontinuation. So far, the EU has not declared the new conventions under GSP+ for Pakistan to ratify and comply with; however, it is evident from the concerns raised that Pakistan will be expected to make more efforts in areas such as fundamental human and labour rights requirements, traceability, and female labour force participation. Therefore, all relevant authorities must act together to promote rigorous compliance with the EU requirements and ensure that the Ministry of Commerce's National Compliance Centre (NCC) is fully operational to guarantee sustainable and fair trade with the EU.

Exports to Europe fall despite GSP+

Pakistan's exports to European nations witnessed a 12.13 per cent decline in the first quarter of the current fiscal year compared to the same period last year, primarily due to a reduced demand for Pakistani goods in western and northern Europe.

The export revenue from these countries fell to \$1.929 billion in July September FY24, a noticeable drop from the \$2.212bn recorded in the corresponding months of the previous year, according to figures compiled by the State Bank of Pakistan.

This development underscores the challenges faced by Pakistani exporters in these economically uncertain times despite having preferential access to 27-member EU countries.

In FY23, the export of EU dropped 4.41pc to \$8.188bn from \$8.566bn in the preceding fiscal year. However, the decline in exports was seen despite the Generalised System of Preferences Plus (GSP+) scheme. The scheme became effective on Jan 1, 2014, and it will remain available to Pakistan for the current fiscal year.

Last month, the European Parliament unanimously voted to extend the GSP+ status for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including

Pakistan, to enjoy duty-free or minimum duty on exports to the European market.

Western Europe, which includes countries such as Germany, the Netherlands, France, Italy, and Belgium, accounts for the largest portion of Pakistan's exports to the EU.

However, there has been a significant 28.36pc decrease in exports to this region. The export value stood at \$1.001bn in the first quarter of FY24, down from \$1.257bn during the same period last year.

While exports to western and northern Europe have seen a decline, there is a silver lining in the form of an uptick in exports to southern Europe. Specifically, exports to Spain and Italy have seen a marginal increase of 1.62pc, rising to \$773m in 3MFY24 from \$761.32m during the same months last year.

However, exports to northern Europe have not done as well, recording a 22pc decline. The export value to this region stood at \$150.607m this year, down from \$194.192m over the corresponding months of the previous year.

Before Brexit, Pakistan's major export destination was the United Kingdom. In the post-Brexit period, Pakistan's exports dipped by 0.22pc to

\$518.803m in 3MFY24 from \$519.948m over the corresponding months of last year.

In FY23, Pakistan's exports dipped by 10.63pc to \$1.966bn to UK from \$2.20bn in the same period of the preceding year.

The decline in exports to the UK is a discouraging factor. However, exporters fear they will lose the UK market following Brexit. The British government, however, has assured Islamabad of no change in the post-Brexit scenario which is evident from the inclusion of Pakistan in its preferential market access scheme.

In terms of market penetration, the UK is now replaced by Germany under GSP+ and emerged as the top export destination for Pakistani products.

Country-wise data shows that export declined by 20pc to Germany as it stood at \$364.446m in 3MFY24 from \$456.895m over the previous year.

The second biggest market for Pakistan's exports is the Netherlands.

Exports to that country went down by 13.18pc to \$331.860m in 3MFY24 against \$382.241 the preceding year. Both Germany and the Netherlands have emerged as major export destinations for Pakistani goods under the GSP+ scheme.

Orange line train turns three years

The Orange Line Metro Train completed three years of its operation on Wednesday, Oct. 25 proving a reliable means of transportation for up to 120 million passengers since the commercial launch of the project on Oct 25, 2020.

train's operation.

He commended the dedicated employees who have been instrumental in the success of the Orange train, stating it stands as a prime example of accessible public transportation and a testament to

from the train, considering it a reliable mode of transportation.

Mr Murad said that the projects like the metro train show that the Pakistan China friendship is rooted in a shared vision rather than individual gain.

He appreciated China's role in Pakistan's progress, particularly in areas such as agriculture, livestock, power, and infrastructure development. 'This friendship is exemplified at the grassroots level.

He also lauded China's investment in various projects creating employment opportunities for thousands of Pakistanis.

The OLMT accommodates around 250,000 passengers daily, with an approximate subsidy of Rs8 billion being allocated for its operation.

He said the government is also considering to extend free travel facility to the disabled and elderly citizens, following the provision of the same for students.

Mr Murad said the government is also planning, in collaboration with China, to introduce eco-friendly transportation system, including electric buses in Lahore and the expansion of the Orange Line Train project to other major cities.



Punjab Minister for Transport Ibrahim Murad extended his gratitude to China for its contribution to the project, marking the completion of three years of the metro

the enduring friendship between Pakistan and China.

Over the past three years, a staggering 120 million individuals have benefited

Iraq dig unearths 2,700-year-old winged sculpture

A dig in northern Iraq has unearthed a 2,700-year-old alabaster sculpture of the winged Assyrian deity Lamassu, which was found largely intact despite its large dimensions.

Only the head was missing and that was already in the collection of the Iraq Museum in Baghdad after being confiscated by customs officers from smugglers in the 1990s, the dig's French leader Pascal Butterlin said.

'I never unearthed anything this big in my life before,' Butterlin said of the 18-tonne sculpture measuring 3.8 by 3.9 metres (about 12.5 by 12.8 feet).

'Normally, it's only in Egypt or Cambodia that you find pieces this big.

'The attention to detail is unbelievable,' said the professor of Middle East archaeology at the University of Paris I Pantheon-Sorbonne. Erected at the entrance to the ancient city of Khorsabad, some 15 kilometres north of the modern city of Mosul, the sculpture shows the Lamassu, an Assyrian deity with a human head, the body of a bull and the wings of a bird.

It was commissioned during the reign

of King Sargon II who ruled from 722 to 705 BC and erected at the city's gates to provide protection, Butterlin said.

First mentioned in the 19th century by French archaeologist Victor Place, the relief dropped from public records until the 1990s when Iraqi authorities earmarked it

for 'urgent intervention'.

It was during this period that looters pillaged the head and chopped it into pieces to smuggle abroad. The rest of the relief was spared the destruction wreaked by the Islamic State jihadist group, which overran the area in 2014.



A view of a sculpture erected to provide protection at the gates of the ancient city of Khorsabad.

Govt. unveils Hajj Policy 2024, slashing cost by Rs 100,000

The caretaker Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr Aneeq Ahmed, unveiled the Hajj Policy 2024 on Thursday, Nov. 16 saying that for the first time in Pakistan's history, the upcoming Hajj will be less expensive than the previous one. The government has also introduced a short package for 20 days, which will cost around Rs80,000 more than the normal Hajj package.

Saudi authorities have granted Pakistan 179,000 Hajj seats, with half re-

served for private Hajj operators. Overseas Pakistanis can perform Hajj under the sponsorship scheme, and they can even nominate someone on their behalf, but payments will only be accepted in US dollars.



served for private Hajj operators.

The sponsorship scheme charges will be \$3,800 for those departing from the northern region of the country and \$3,765 for those departing from the southern parts.

Applications for government Hajj will be accepted by banks from Nov 27 to Dec 12, 2023.

The caretaker minister said that the interim government worked on the Hajj Policy 2024 for three months.

Last year, Haj expenses exceeded Rs1.17 million, while this year, it would be around Rs1.07m, a reduction of Rs 100,000 without compromising on services or quality, he added.

He highlighted that the government will provide one suitcase of 30kg each to the 90,000 Hajj pilgrims travelling under the government Hajj scheme.

While Islamabad has already been included in the 'Road to Malckah' proj-

ect, where Saudi immigration is completed in the country, the Saudi government has included Karachi and is also working to include the Lahore airport in this initiative.

Simultaneously, the minister noted that the Saudi government demanded a reduction of Hajj operators from 900 to 46 under the new Hajj policy, streamlining overall Hajj operations.

Meanwhile, the Council of Islamic Ideology (CII) has clarified its position

on women performing Hajj without a mehram (a close male relative) companion.

The CII submitted its written response over a query to the Ministry of Religious Affairs, applicable for the next Hajj in 2024.

The CII said that according to Hanafi and Hanbali jurisprudence, Hajj is not obligatory for a woman if a mehram is not available. It added that according to Jafria, Maliki and Shafi'i schools of thoughts; a woman can perform Hajj without the company of a mehram, subject to certain conditions.

According to the jurisprudence of Jafria, Maliki, and Shafi'i, the CII explains that a woman with the company of reliable women can go on Hajj with the permission of her parents, or husband in case of being married.

The CII also said that a lone female can proceed for Hajj if there is a reliable and able female in the group and suggested that the Ministry of Religious Affairs should investigate and grant permission if the authorities are satisfied with the group members.

Thal Jeep rally closes with cultural extravaganza

The eighth edition of Thal Jeep Rally concluded on Sunday Nov. 12 with a glitzy cultural show and musical night after five days of intense competition between 46 drivers.

The otherwise arid area in three Punjab districts Layyah, Muzaffargarh and Kot Addu lit up with festivities and roaring sounds of motor vehicle engines as drivers covered the 196km bumpy track across multiple competitions in four days from Nov 9 to 12.

The event drew a huge number of spectators from across the country who witnessed enthralling competitions. On



the last day, a cultural jhoomar party regaled the attendants.

Earlier, 43 male and three female drivers competed in the final round on the last day.

Taimur Khawaja triumphed in the prepared male category by covering the dirt track in the shortest time. He was followed by Mossadiq Khakwani and Shiraz Qureshi, who secured second and third spots, respectively.

A relative novice racer, Mr Khawaja won the title despite the presence of renowned racers, including Sahibzada Mohammed Ali Sultan, Nadir Magsi, Jafar Magsi, Asif Fazal Chaudhry and Zain Mehmood.

The senior racers could not complete their laps in the last round due to vehicle damage and malfunctions.

Mr Khawaja, who started in second position, covered the distance in 2 hours 24 minutes 36 seconds. Mr Khakwani's time was 2 hours 25 minutes 32 seconds, while the third-place, Mr Shiraz, crossed the finish line in 3 hours 16 minutes 30 seconds.

In the female prepared category, Salma Marwat secured the first position, while Dina Patel and Rida Zainab came

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second and third, respectively.

Mr Khawaja said even though the track was 'very good', it still posed challenges for the drivers. Talking to the media after his victory, the Lahore-based racer hoped the Thal Jeep Rally would become a successful racing competition in future. Ms Patel said such recreational activities should be held every year so that people could enjoy them. Talking about the arrangements, Muzaffargarh Deputy Commissioner Mian Usman Ali said organising a mega event was a big challenge, but the tourism department helped the administration in preparing the 196km track.

The track spanned across three districts Muzaffargarh, Layyah and Kot Addu and extensive security arrangements were made for the event, DC Ali said.

'Now, this event will be held every year,' he said, adding international drivers will also participate in future. He called the rally a 'great honour for Muzaffargarh district'.

Muzaffargarh District Police Officer Syed Hasnain Haider said several checkpoints were set up along the track to ensure strict security, and more than 600 policemen were deputed for security purposes. Layyah Deputy Commissioner Khalid Parvaiz and DPO Asadul Rehman also visited the event. The award distribution ceremony was held in Faisal Stadium, where the Dera Ghazi Khan commissioner and tourism department officials distributed the prizes.

They said such activities would flourish the district's economy and promote the region's cultural values at an intentional level.

While the spectators were largely satisfied with the arrangements, they complained the district administration did not set up any food street or carts around the venue.

On Saturday, Mohammad Marwat, who started second on the track, secured first position in the stock category, per unofficial results. He was followed by Mohammad Zohaib, who finished second.

Cousins separated in 1947 meet at Kartarpur

Two cousins who were separated by the Partition of India in 1947 were reunited at the Gurdwara Darbar Sahib, Kartarpur, on Sunday, Oct. 22 after a gap of 76 years.

Muhammad Ismail (84) reached Gurdwara Darbar Sahib from district Sahiwal and Surinder Kaur reached there from Jalandhar, India via the Kartarpur Corridor. Ismail and Surinder Kaur are cousins. During their meeting, both the cousins hugged each other and could not control their tears, over-

ment and the chief minister of Indian Punjab to issue me a visit visa but in vain,' Ismail complained.

Surindra Kaur said she was very happy to meet her cousin and her family the riots, the families of Kaur and Ismail were separated.

'I and my other family members tried hard to find our missing family members but could not find any information about them.

Ismail said that after the establishment of Kartarpur Corridor four years ago, Khayam Asghar Chohan, a YouTuber, recorded his interview



whelmed by emotions.

Ismail said that he was living in Shahkot town of district Jalandhar before the Partition and during from Australia contacted me and shared information about my missing family members in India and a contact developed between the families on the phone.

He said he got excited to meet his family members after finding out about them and was anxious to meet them, especially his cousin Surinder Kaur; however, he could not get a visa to visit India in the last four years.

'The Indian Embassy is not issuing a visit visa to me. I had written a letter also to the Indian govern-

ment and the chief minister of Indian Punjab to issue me a visit visa but in vain,' Ismail complained.

'After my interview went viral, Mission Singh members. She said she kept looking for her family members but no one was found.

Kaur's family performed religious rituals at Gurdwara Darbar Sahib while members of both the families visited different parts of the gurdwara.

They thanked the government of Pakistan for the Kartarpur Corridor, saying that with the establishment of the corridor, love and affection would increase in both the countries. Sweets were distributed to both families by the administration of the gurdwara.

Archaeological park planned in Chaukhandi graveyard

The Sindh government has invited proposals for establishment of an archaeological park at the centuries-old Chaukhandi graveyard.

During a visit to the historical cemetery, caretaker Sindh Chief Minister retired Justice Maqbool Bagar ordered the authorities to remove encroachments around the heritage site.

He witnessed the plight of the graveyard and called for preparing a plan to restore the

The CM was told that the Chaukhandi graveyard was declared 'protected' area and UNESCO placed it on the 'tentative list' in 1993.

The Chaukhandi graveyard is spread over an area of 100 acres and contains tombs of warriors of Baloch and Jokhio families settled in this area during the 17th and 18th centuries. Owing to scarcity of dated inscriptions on Chaukhandi tombs, it is difficult to assign

their dead in this graveyard as well.

'This is one of the reasons that UNESCO did not declare the graveyard as International Heritage,' he said.

The chief minister directed the commissioner to remove the illegal parking of heavy trucks adjacent to the main entrance (boundary wall) of the graveyard. He directed the deputy commissioner of Malir and the solid waste management board not to allow dump-



A damaged grave in the Chaukhandi graveyard.

archaeological site on Tuesday 14 Nov. Local Government Secretary Manzoor Shailch, Culture Secretary Aleem Lashari, Commissioner Saleem Rajput, archaeologist Dr Kaleem Lashari and others accompanied the CM.

According to a spokesperson of CM House, Justice Baqar witnessed that the stone-carved graves and tombs were crumbling and needed an urgent restoration.

He expressed his disappointment over encroachments and illegal structures near the graveyard.

The culture secretary briefed the CM that after 18th Amendment the administrative control of the graveyard was transferred to the Sindh government in April 2013.

exact dates to them.

These tombs are built on raised platforms in a pyramid form with decorative stone slabs covered with human and figurative designs.

Most of the tombs represent family graveyards and only a few are placed under pillar canopies.

The carvings on some of the male graves show a horseman with shield, sword, bow and arrow in his arms. The carvings on women's graves represent ornaments such as bracelets, necklace, rings, anklets, etc.

Dr Kaleem Lashari told the CM that the security hazards included theft of ancient assets and stones from the graveyard.

He added that illegal burials were one of the serious issues as the local people buried

ing of garbage near the graveyard.

The CM, on the request of Dr Kaleem Lashari, directed the commissioner of Karachi to start demarcation of the premises of the graveyard so that another entrance wall near the main highway could be constructed to protect the entire area.

The chief minister constituted a committee to suggest ways and means to start 'face uplift' of the graveyard and develop archaeological landscapes inside and around the historical site.

'I want to develop the graveyard as an archaeological park where local and international tours would be promoted,' he said and directed the committee to submit him a proposal for the purpose.



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No increase in number of Deosai bears worries conservationists

Amid no increase in the number of brown bears at Deosai National Park over the past three to four years, the conservations have put GPS collars on one female and two male bears to study their behaviour and possible reasons which have led to a halt in their population growth.

The conservationists are concerned as to why the number of brown bears in Deosai has remained stagnant at roughly 75. Anecdotal accounts suggest that 'severely disturbed and shrinking habitat' due to increasing human activities and possible inbreeding may be the reason behind this phenomenon.

However, with the help of GPS collars, the experts intend to find the actual reasons as well as their diet, hibernation and territory of these bears.

'It is unprecedented that this level of science is being utilised to study bears' behaviour. The collars cost around \$2,000 and \$500 is service fees,' said Vaqar Zakaria, who is assisting Deosai National Park with its management. He is also a former member of the Islamabad Wildlife Management Board (IWMB).

Before 1993, brown bears were hunted extensively. Its blubber used to be easily available in the markets of Gilgit and Skardu. Its gall bladder was in demand in China and its gentiles were also being sold. They were also captured for the inhumane practice of bear-baiting.

In comparison with its cousin, the American grizzly bear, a Deosai brown bear gives birth to one cub only.

'The American grizzly is also bigger weighing 600kg to 700kg. It can consume up to 25kg to 30kg of rich diet and litter size is three to four cubs every three years,' Mr Zakaria added.

The last survey conducted in 2005, put the brown bear population at 40-45 in the Deosai plains. Some 15 years on, following conservation efforts, the num-

bers grew to roughly 70. In the last three to four years, their population has reportedly become stagnant.

Conservationists attribute this to an increased human activity. After the park was established in 1993, a policy was drafted to restrict domestic grazing animals to 2,000 to 2,500 sheep in the pro-

lution. This is an anecdotal explanation and not based on scientific study. But these are indications why population might be static, 'Vaqar Zakaria told media.

The big question conservationists are asking again is how best to manage the park, starting with controlling the number of grazing animals and containing tourists in specific areas.

According to conservationists, mother bears need secure areas to stay away from males, who could kill cubs.

'A male needs large pockets, at least 5 to 6km territory where it could roam like a king and repel intruders.

'When humans start claiming territories, they push wildlife to the edges, which then wander into settlements/ villages to forage. The core zones where bear population remained undisturbed have also been intruded by shepherds, he said, adding that there had been incidents when bears had intruded camping sites.

In order to find out the causes behind the stagnant population growth, blood and hair samples taken from the three bears have been sent to international labs to study DNA, ascertain diversity in the gene pool and confirm if inbreeding has caused the stagnancy in their population.

'We are setting a target to increase bear population to 150 plus, in the next 10 to 15 years. It's an arduous task. The wider gene pool mixing from Deosai all the way to Khunjerab has been disrupted by settlements, causing a disconnect. There are bears on both sides of the Line of Control but they cannot get across. The land is littered with mines and fences.

Nonetheless, the GPS collars will help understand bear movement and help identify and set aside conservation areas again and improve management practices, 'Mr Zakaria said in an optimistic tone.



A brown bear roams the Deosai National Park after a GPS collar was fixed to it.

tected area. Nonetheless, by 2012-13, grazing animals increased to 19,000.

Himalayan Wildlife Foundation, an organisation working for the preservation of wildlife, proposed a plan to restrict shepherds. Despite some progress, by 2020, the population of grazing animals increased again, to roughly 5,000, including horses.

When the park was established 30 years ago, tourist traffic used to be as less as 25 to 40 cars. Today, over 500 vehicles disrupt the quiet in the protected area.

'The disturbance level is extremely high... having an impact on bear popu-

The things we do in everyday life

We are in the habit of doing things of daily life in the wrong way, the way that causes at best inconvenience and at worst pain for others as well as for us.

We forget our pain because it is self-inflicted but we happily ignore others' pain as if it is inconsequential. Norms, traditions and laws are outcomes of a long historical process driven by human needs which keep changing with the changing conditions. It's not that everything we see operating in human domain is painless or non-exploitative. That is why societies conscious of human needs (keep improving things incrementally to make the realisation of human potential possible in some measure. But we also witness a reverse process; certain cultures make it almost impossible for individuals to grow either by design or by default. When going against common sense, which is basis of norms, tradition and laws, becomes a habit we see people behaving the way they behave in our towns and cities; trying for short cut they become a source of misery in social life.

What we do in social life have impact on all of us. Look at your roads. The driver in the fast lane drives slowly as if he/she is on a pleasure drive. Drivers who are behind overtake from the wrong side causing headache to others that increases the chances of road accidents. It's funny to see the fast lane moving slowly and the slow lane moving fast.

Imagine the mental agony of drivers who follow traffic rules. If traffic stops for some minutes for some reason, drivers in their indecent haste convert three lane road into five lane road causing further delay. The reason is that most of the drivers have got driving licences issued without undertaking the required driving test. The rich use influence and those not rich offer bribes to get the driving documents.

Nobody bothers to make queue or stand in queue whether they are in a bank, or bus stop or at wedding dinner. Each of those present think (she/she has priority and be served first. Jostling and elbowing not only create scenes but at times causes brawls resulting in a general melee. The result is that all lose their time and grace. The reason is that they have been taught neither at home nor at school that all individuals have equal rights and sense of entitlement is socially and culturally

negative. Our ruling classes thrive on sense of entitlement and its negative impact has permeated all levels of society. We cannot say what we mean. We lie and lie most of the times unnecessarily, out of habit, in fact. We have become compulsive liars. At an arranged function the chief guest would arrive hours late.

Duration of the delay would show the importance of the guest; greater the delay heavier the guest. When on the podium he/she would simply say; sorry I was busy with something important. It would be a sheer lie. But the things don't stop here.

Workers and skilled workers behave in a similar fashion. You need a plumbing or electric work to get done. You fix the day and time with a plumber or an electrician. You wait and wait on the day you fixed.

You cannot trace him. His phone is switched off. After hours' struggle when you get connected, you would be told; 'sorry sir, my uncle met an accident. I would attend you tomorrow.' The next day you are desperate. You would call him on his cell phone and the reply would be; 'on the way sir. Don't worry.' He would be lying as he would be going somewhere else. He would arrive after half the day is gone. Before evening he would leave the things half-done and depart saying he would fix them tomorrow. No one plays straight with you like you never play straight with them.

We do it without ever feeling embarrassed. One of the reasons may be the long history of intruders we faced and lying or not playing straight was a component of defence strategy that has got ingrained in our psyche. But we need to look at the big picture to understand the intractable mess we are in. We are an old society but a new state that emerged in 1947. Two crucial factors played a big role in making us what we are now.

One, the Partition, especially the bloody division of Punjab, triggered a process that resulted in the slaughter of one and a half million people of diverse faiths and crossing of more than 15 millions across the borders. This ghoulish scene left little respect for norms, traditions and laws in the heart of the people. It showed that the cruelest could survive and the slyest would flourish.

Two, the Muslim League, the political party that spearheaded the movement for

the creation of a new Muslim majority state, was little more than a clutch of feudal landlords fearful of democratic future.

Consequently they never ever made any effort to politically mobilise Muslim masses. They in fact discouraged anything that could create grassroots. The thrust was to acquiesce to the dictates of the colonial masters and seek possible concessions which would in no way disturb the colonial order which was going to be a white-washed edifice of the new state.

When moneyed Hindus and landed Sikhs fled this part of the Punjab, they left behind huge assets and properties which were up for grab. And the powerful in the new state grabbed all and everything without sanction of law. All who had the muscle presented their claims based on lies to appropriate the evacuees' properties and assets. So much so that migrants from cities of Uttar Pradesh became landlords in Pakistan. A new class of the people, close to the state and its powerful bureaucracy, was born from the womb of what we know as 'claims' which were mostly false i.e. lies. The concepts of legitimate rights, honest work and rule of law were deliberately put on the back burner. Power or an arrogant sense of entitlement expressed in social life was the short cut that renegeted a desperate desire for self-advancement. Individual gain by foul means became an accepted means for the achievement of social ambitions. Sadly, we forget that we are now metaphorically an epitome of what Jesus Christ said in the Gospel: '...they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.'



Fishermen prepare to unload their catch after they arrived at a city harbor on Nov. 21 on the eve of World Fisheries Day.

Archaeologists unearth pot of copper coins in first major discovery at Mohenjo Daro in 93 years

A team of experts on Thursday Nov. 16 announced unearthing a pot full of copper coins from the Divinity street on the Western side of Mohenjodaro Stupa, which they saw as the first remarkable discovery of artifacts at the 5,000-year-old city remains after 93 years.

Director of Archaeology Mohenjodaro, Dr Syed Shakir Shah, who led the team comprising archaeological conservator Ghulam Shabir Joyo, assistant conservator Imtiaz Domki, laboratory assistant Rustam Ali Bhutto and research scholar Sheikh Javed Sindhi resumed digging at the site where the staff busy with preservation work had stumbled upon the pot of coins on Wednesday, Nov. 17 but reburied it.

The team continued the work for

three hours and safely secured the coins buried in the debris along with the jar wherein they were kept. They appeared to be thickly rusted and stuck up with each other, said sources.

They said the jar of coins weighing about five and a half kilogram was later shifted to the soil testing laboratory at the site.

Sheikh Javed Sindhi, who was engaged in research at the site, said that previously, 4,348 copper coins were excavated by R.D. Banerji, Sir John Marshall and Mackay from 1922 to 1931. These coins belonged to Kushan Period dating back to 2 to 5 Century AD, he said.

'The present discovery is remarkable after 93 years and its credit goes to Mohenjodaro team,' he said.

Rustam Bhutto, in-charge of the soil and water testing laboratory, said the treatment process for separating the amalgamated coins would take at least a month to make the figures and language on coins visible.

Shakir Shah told journalists later that most probably the coins belonged to Kushan Period. The research on the coins would only take off once they were made visible with special treatment at the laboratory and after completion of the process and research the coins would be kept at Mohenjodaro Museum for the visitors, he said.

'Though we have shifted the coins to the laboratory [for the time being] we will definitely hire experts to confirm the period which could be revealed from the inscriptions on the coins. We have to look for which dynasties of the Kushan Period the coins belong to, he said.

He said that it was good news for everyone as the coins in such huge quantity had been discovered from the site after nearly 100 years. The jar wherein the coins were kept was broken but the coins were intact as they were found buried in between the walls built of unbaked bricks at the height of 15 feet from the street, he said.

Mr Banerji first stumbled upon them when excavating the monastery in 1921-22. Between the earliest Buddhist pavement and the lowest point reached within a space, that is to say of 40 feet-seven different strata were revealed, all belonging to the Chalcolithic period, said Ali Haidar Gadhi, senior conservationist at.

He said that Mr Banerji discovered nearly 2,000 coins, 338 of which were of the period of Kushan ruler Vasudeva-1 with standing royal figure on obverse and Shiva on the reverse and the bulk comprising 1,823 un-inscribed cast copper coins. 'Another nine had fire altar on the obverse and a crude figure on reverse, he said.

'Although subsequent investigations suggest a break between the end of the Indus occupation and the Kushan phase, it is unlikely that the site was ever totally abandoned due to its high position on the plane and the protection it afforded against floods,' he said.



The pot of coins.



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Autumn colours descend upon Swat

As the summer warmth gradually gives way to the crisp breeze of autumn, Swat valley has transformed into a breathtaking canvas of vibrant colours.

The verdant expanse that ruled the scenery over the summer has transformed into an enchanting exhibition of crimsons and yellows. The valley, known for its breathtaking beauty, has acquired a new appeal that wins over both residents and visitors.

in complete astonishment, claiming he has never seen anything like this.

The warm tea that local sellers put up along the walkways to serve guests adds to the festive mood of the season. Wandering the valleys, families, friends, and lone travellers discover comfort and happiness in the surrounding fall splendour.

‘It is like a painting come to life when you go there in the fall.

The surroundings are unmatched in their tranquilly, and the colours are incred-



Travellers from all over the country have descended upon Swat to take in the alluring splendour of fall. Golden and scarlet leaves dance to the soft wind as they meander through the valley and produce a breathtaking panorama. The encounter is made more delightful by the lovely scent of falling leaves, filling the air.

‘When we see the colourful photos of Swat valley trending on social media, we are unable to resist using our mobile phones and cameras to record the beauty of November,’ said Ilyas Khalid, a tourist who was taking photos with a group of friends.

Laughter and happiness of tourists ring through the valleys as they stroll across the carpet of falling leaves. With the backdrop of trees glowing with fall foliage, people snap selfies that they would remember for years to come.

Like bees to honey, amateur and professional photographers are also drawn to Swat. ‘There is a huge potential for stunning photos because of the dramatic interplay of highlights and shadows caused by the sun falling on the red and gold leaves,’ Adil Khan, a photographer, said as he was

ably vibrant. It provides a restorative haven from the stress of everyday life,’ said Amjad Ali, an experienced traveller and photographer.

The hashtags #AutumnInSwat and #Nature’sCanvas are trending on social media as travellers and photographers exchange stories on the internet. Swat’s fall beauty has turned into a community event that brings people together through a common admiration of the glories of nature.

Abdul Hakeem, a tourist, said that God gifted the northern region with every colour and season. ‘Visitors always like coming to Swat in the summer, but I welcome them to come here in the winter, when they will discover a whole new universe. A colourful and charming universe,’ he said.

With their hearts full of the beauty they have seen, the visitors and photographers grudgingly start their descent from the valleys as the sun sinks below the horizon, bathing the mountains in a warm glow. Autumnal colours decorating Swat valley have made a lasting impression on their spirits, a memory that would cling to them long after they got back to their regular lives.

Pakistan re-elected to UNESCO executive board

Pakistan has been successfully re-elected to the Executive Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation’s (UNESCO) for the term 2023-2027.

Sources in the education ministry told media that Pakistan has been re-elected at the elections held on Wednesday, Nov. 15 during the 42nd Session of the General Conference in Paris. They said that the Asia-Pacific Group was hotly contested, with nine candidates running for six seats. Pakistan secured the highest number of votes (157) in the group, as they received more votes than in 2019, which were 154 votes. As per the sources, the Executive Board of UNESCO consists of 58 members with a four-year term and elections were held to fill 33 seats.

Meanwhile, a statement issued by Foreign Office stated: ‘Pakistan’s re-election is a testament to its longstanding support for and constructive role at the United Nations (UN). Pakistan values the ever-relevant and crucial role of UNESCO as a universal forum to promote the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind and the advancement of global peace and development through education, science, culture, and communication,’ read the statement.

It further said that during its new term on the Executive Board, Pakistan will continue to work with all member states to strengthen UNESCO’s mandate, advance shared goals, and contribute to the policy-making, development of norms, advancement of global priorities, and effective oversight of programmes and activities of the organisation.

As per the statement, ‘As an ardent advocate of multi lateralism, Pakistan will endeavor to strengthen our collective efforts at UNESCO, including by building bridges across regions and forging consensus on key issues for tangible outcomes and impact on the ground. As a partner, Pakistan will continue to extend proactive support for the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Operational Strategy and Global Priorities Africa and Gender Equality.

Last week, Pakistan’s Interim Federal Education Minister Madad Ali Sindhi also attended the UNESCO’s session and reiterated Pakistan’s commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals - 4, terming it the cornerstone of progress and guiding light towards a more prosperous society.



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